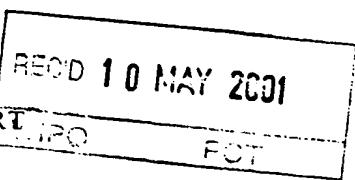


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT



(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference JHT-0004	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US00/01004	International filing date (day/month/year) 14 JANUARY 2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 15 JANUARY 1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Please See Supplemental Sheet.		
Applicant EXXONMOBIL RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING CO.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority. (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 0 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 14 AUGUST 2000	Date of completion of this report 23 MARCH 2001
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer MARK BELL DEBORAH THOMAS PARALEGAL SPECIALIST Telephone No. (703) 308-0661

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/01004

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

 the international application as originally filed the description:pages 1-60, as originally filed
pages NONE
pages NONE, filed with the demand the claims:pages 61-65, as originally filed
pages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of the drawings:pages 1-2, as originally filed
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of the sequence listing part of the description:pages NONE, as originally filed
pages NONE, filed with the demand
pages NONE, filed with the letter of2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is: the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing: contained in the international application in printed form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages NONE the claims, Nos. NONE the drawings, sheets/fig NONE5. This report has been drawn as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

**Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/01004

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. statement**

Novelty (N)

Claims 1-34 YESClaims NONE NO

Inventive Step (IS)

Claims 1-34 YESClaims NONE NO

Industrial Applicability (IA)

Claims 1-34 YESClaims NONE NO**2. citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)**

Claims 1-34 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(4), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the claimed process for preparing a lubricating oil basestock, comprising contacting a hydrocarbon feedstock with a bulk metal catalyst under hydrocracking conditions and fractionating the hydrocracked feedstock, said catalyst comprising non-noble Group VIII metal molybdate in which at least a portion but less than all of the molybdate is replaced by tungsten.

Ferlazzo et al. and Velenyi teach catalysts comprising the same components (i.e., Ni, Mo, W, etc.). However, these references teach ranges of these components that are not commensurate with those respectively claimed. Also, the catalysts disclosed in Ferlazzo et al. and Velenyi are useful in the production of methyl acrylate or a mixture of methyl acrylate with acrylic acid (Ferlazzo et al.), and for the conversion of methane to higher order hydrocarbons (Velenyi), as opposed to the production of a lubricating oil basestock.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----
NONE

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

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VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

Claims 1, 7-13, and 15-34 are objected to under PCT Rule 66.2(a)(iii) as containing the following defect(s) in the form or contents thereof:

In line 3 of claim 1, the word "feedstock" is repeated, i.e., "contacting a hydrocarbon feedstock **feedstock**...".

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/01004

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: Boxes I - VIII

Sheet 10

CLASSIFICATION:

The International Patent Classification (IPC) and/or the National classification are as listed below:

IPC(7): C10G 47/02, 47/24, 47/04, 11/00, 11/02, 11/04 and US Cl.: 208/18, 108, 112, 113, 121, 123, 124

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
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BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
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CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakhstan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/01004

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : C10G 47/02, 47/24, 47/04, 11/00, 11/02, 11/04
US CL : 208/18, 108, 112, 113, 121, 123, 124

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 208/18, 108, 112, 113, 121, 123, 124

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

NONE

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

NONE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,112,472 A (GOSSELINK et al) 12 May 1992, col. 1, line 45 to col. 6, line 65.	1-34
Y	US 4,808,563 A (VELENYI) 28 February 1989, col. 3, line 18 to col. 4, line 49.	7-12, 33, 34
Y	US 4,014,925 A (FERLAZZO et al) 29 March 1977, col. 2, line 4 to col. 6, line 23.	7-12, 33, 34

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
B earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search

10 APRIL 2000

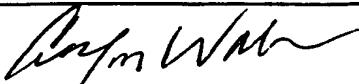
Date of mailing of the international search report

26 APR 2000

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